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A.G. on Ag - California Agriculture Updates - July 2007

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"Good News about the Farm Bill!"

This past Thursday, July 19, I was in Washington D.C. as the House Agriculture Committee took the first step toward creating a bolder and stronger farm bill for California and the nation. They recognized that we would need a different kind of policy to deal with the food, fiber and fuel issues in the 21st century.

The California Congressional Delegation has made great strides in drafting language that supports an investment in research, conservation, nutrition and specialty crops that is vital to our state and nation. This investment accompanies a safety net for program crop producers so important to California agriculture.

The dedication from California's agricultural industry, environmental groups, nutrition and food security coalitions, conservation advocates and academia has had a significant impact on farm bill discussions. We need to continue this work and unity until a California-friendly farm bill is finalized. I am grateful to all who envision a stronger farm bill for California and am confident that we have the team and leadership to bring forward positive solutions for our state and nation.

Although I can't recognize all of them here, I know there have been hundreds of stakeholders in California who been rallying together for years, helping create the partnerships and laying the foundation necessary to create a farm bill that is as varied and strong as our state.

Finally, I'd like to thank Governor Schwarzenegger for his fantastic support on behalf of California agriculture. He has lent his strong voice to emphasize the importance of a farm bill that's an investment in "our health, our communities and our environment."

As always, thank you for your support. Feel free to contact my office with any questions or concerns.

A.G. Kawamura

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